



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
10TH MEDICAL GROUP
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY COLORADO**

24 January 2003

Dear Beneficiary,

As you or your spouse approach your 65th birthday, many questions may arise regarding your military health care benefit. Under recent congressional legislation military retirees, over the age of 65, are now eligible for TRICARE for Life to assist in providing continuous access to health care services.

TRICARE for Life will normally pay all Medicare co-payments and deductibles. Under TRICARE for Life, you will receive all Medicare covered benefits under the original Medicare Plan, plus all TRICARE covered benefits. The only prerequisite for military retirees is to enroll in Medicare Part B when it is offered by the Social Security Administration and to ensure information contained in the military Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) is accurate.

During calendar year 2002 we were able to offer a limited number of seniors access to Primary Care services through a program called TRICARE Plus. At the 10th Medical Group, TRICARE Plus was offered to those beneficiaries who were previously enrolled in the TRICARE Senior Prime demonstration project, and those TRICARE Prime enrollees who reached their 65th birthday prior to December 31, 2002. TRICARE Plus enrollment has exceeded our projections and is affecting our ability to sustain timely access to primary care services. Therefore effective 1 Jan 2003 we will no longer be able to enroll our TRICARE prime beneficiaries turning 65 into the TRICARE Plus program.

Our 10th Medical Group personnel stand ready to assist you in this transition. In order to serve you better, we have included with this letter a list of Family Practice and General Practice providers in the local area who have a history of accepting Medicare patients. To provide continuity of care and to fully utilize your TRICARE for Life entitlement, we suggest that you contact a Medicare Primary Care Provider in the local civilian community. Please note that it is important for you to confirm that your selected provider is still accepting new Medicare patients.

Clinic staffing and capacity will continue to be monitored by the 10th MDG Commander and staff. At a future date, if sufficient capacity becomes available, a notice will be published and a random enrollment process initiated. However, no waiting lists will be maintained. Services still available to you at the MTF after January 1, 2003 include Pharmacy, Laboratory and certain Radiology procedures. If you have any questions, please contact our beneficiary support office at 333-5597 or visit the TRICARE website (<http://www.tricare.osd.mil>) for more information on TRICARE for life.

**DOUGLAS J. ROBB
Commander, 10 Medical Group**